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Guide to Household Recycling

*An Introduction to Why, What
and How to Recycle in the
Home.*

Recycling has been part of America's lifestyle from Colonial times to World War II and will play an important role in our future. During World War II, saving tin cans and grease drippings was considered critical to the war effort. Children went door-to-door to collect paper, aluminum and other recyclables. It was not until the birth of the disposable society in the fifties that it became acceptable to throw away rather than recover.

Many world resources are in danger of being exhausted and consumption of these resources continues to increase at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, increased consumption means increased waste and as landfill space becomes scarce, we must look for alternatives to our solid waste problem.

Recycling offers the most practical and simple start to solving our environmental and disposal space problems.

Recycling is not a cure-all for solid waste problems because we will always have some wastes which cannot be recycled. But, recycling is one big step toward solving our problem.

WHY RECYCLE?

*** *Recycling reduces the need for landfill space.***

Every American discards about five pounds of solid waste each day in his or her trash. A family of four can expect to discard more than three tons of trash each year. Two decades ago there were nearly 1200 landfills in Illinois. Today, less than 133 landfills are left and more than half of these remaining landfills are expected to reach capacity in the next five years.

*** *Recycling conserves energy.***

Recycling household waste helps conserve energy. For example, 65,749 kilowatt hours of electricity are needed to make one ton of aluminum from bauxite. One ton of aluminum recovered from recycled materials requires only 5,742 kilowatt hours. A savings of 92 percent!

Recycling other household waste such as paper, cans and glass results in comparable energy savings.

*** *Recycling saves natural resources.***

The world's supply of fossil fuels and mineral deposits is being rapidly depleted. Using recycled materials will delay the depletion of existing resources and decrease our dependence on foreign sources for tin, petroleum and other materials we now import.

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- * Recycling protects our environment.**

Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees. Many industries producing products from recycled materials cause less air and water pollution than industries producing the same product from raw materials.

- * Recycling helps solve the solid waste volume problem.**

Most of the solid waste generated each year ends up in landfills. Permitted landfill space is rapidly filling up in Illinois and alternatives are difficult to find. While recycling will not eliminate the use of landfills, it does divert the material from landfills thereby increasing the landfill space for materials which can not be recycled.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

- * GLASS**

Glass containers that are clear, amber and green can be recycled. Milk-white glass, plate glass, light bulbs, crystal and fluorescent bulbs can not be recycled.

Glass for recycling should be clean and metal caps and rings removed. Glass should be separated by color.

- * PAPER**

Paper is classified into various grades.

- Newspapers**

Any newspaper which is not bound by a glued edge can be recycled. Newsprint often accounts for the largest part of waste from a household. It is also the easiest to recycle. It merely needs to be stacked and tied both ways in manageable bundles.

Recycled newsprint is used for insulation, packing materials, fiber pipes, roofing materials and newspaper.

- Cardboard**

Corrugated cardboard, commonly used for heavy-duty cartons, has two layers of heavy cardboard with a ribbed section in between. Plastic coated or tar-lined corrugated cardboard can not be recycled by individuals.

To recycle cardboard, break the box down so that it is flat. Stack and tie the cardboard into small bundles.

- Kraft Paper**

Kraft paper is the brown paper used in grocery sacks and wrapping paper. It is often recycled with corrugated cardboard. Check with your recycling center to see if they will accept kraft paper.



Hi-grade Papers

There are three types of high-grade paper: computer paper, tab cards and ledger. In the home, usually ledger paper is the most common. This includes typing paper, notebook, ditto and writing paper. High grades of paper can not be mixed with carbons, cellophane, newspaper and glossy magazine paper. Hi-grade paper is shredded, repulped, deinked and then recycled into bond paper, tissues and wrapping paper. Purchase and use of recycled paper whenever possible is extremely helpful because it helps increase the demand for recycled products.

Scrap Paper

All types of paper mixed together or contaminated in some way is scrap paper. Most of this paper is found in packaging.

Not all recycling centers will accept scrap paper. Check with your local recycler before bringing it to the center. Scrap paper can be recycled into things such as egg cartons, chipboard and roofing materials.

*** METALS**

Aluminum

All-aluminum beverage cans and other clean household aluminum products can be recycled. All-aluminum cans are molded without seams and have a rounded base and indented top. It takes about 25 cans to make one pound of aluminum. To recycle aluminum cans, rinse and flatten the cans.

Other aluminum items such as foil plates, aluminum foil and lawn furniture are recyclable. These should be kept separate from aluminum cans because they are a different grade of aluminum.

Aluminum can be recycled into new beverage containers, storm doors, gutters and a variety of other products.

Steel (Tin) Cans

Steel cans, often referred to as tin cans, are magnetic and have seamed sides. The typical food can is a good example. For recycling, these cans should be rinsed, the ends and labels removed and flattened.

Other Metals

Scrap metal such as pipe, appliances and sheet metal can be recycled. Copper wiring and lead from batteries are also recyclable.

* PLASTICS

Plastic two-liter soft drink containers and gallon milk jugs are recyclable. To prepare plastic containers for recycling, rinse and remove metal caps. Recycled plastic is used to make floor mats, fishing line and fiber filler for sleeping bags and vests.

* MOTOR OIL

Motor oil should never be thrown into the garbage can or dumped on the ground.

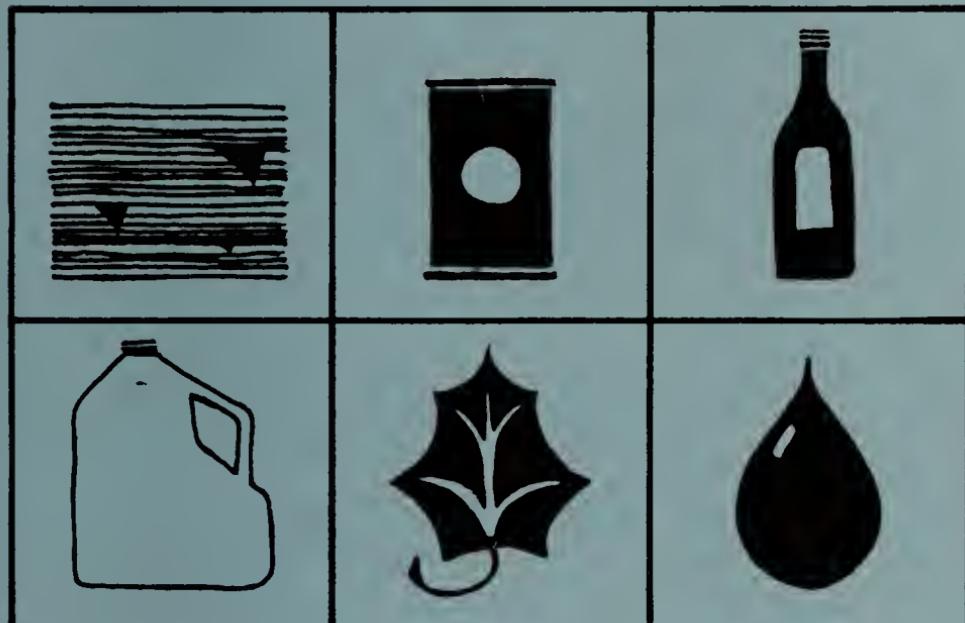
If you change the oil in your car yourself, save the dirty oil in a leakproof container. Some service stations and recycling centers accept used oil. Because of liability and regulatory concerns, however, fewer service stations and outlets now accept used oil from the public. Do it yourselfers should make arrangements for properly disposing of motor oil before changing it.

It is then shipped to a refinery where the impurities are removed and it is marketed as re-refined oil or an industrial fuel oil. This prevents it from ending up as pollutants in our waterways.

* ORGANIC WASTES

Kitchen wastes and lawn trimmings can be used to enrich the earth through composting. Composting is a controlled decaying process. A smelly pile that attracts animals and flies can be avoided if composting is properly maintained.

For the publication, *Composting: An Alternative to Burning*, contact the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.



HOW TO RECYCLE? ■■■

Separating materials in the home is the best way to make recycling work. Once materials are put in the garbage they become contaminated and difficult to recycle.

Some studies indicate it takes less than three minutes a day for a homeowner to recycle glass, cans, aluminum and newspaper.

Your home recycling center can be set up in a garage, closet or kitchen corner. The only materials required are twine, boxes, grocery bags and a can-opener.

A home recycling center can be set up with just three sturdy boxes, one for paper, cans and glass. Newspaper can be tied with twine in manageable stacks.

Most people who recycle find a monthly trip to the collection center convenient. It takes very little time and can be combined with other trips. Your community may have a curbside pickup which you can participate in or help your local government to start.

There are many recycling operations in Illinois that buy various recycled materials. Check the local Yellow Pages under "recycling," "waste paper," or "scrap metals" to find a recycler in your area, or contact:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Public Information
2200 Churchill Road
P.O. 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276 (217) 782-5562
or,

Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources
Office of Solid Waste
325 W. Adams
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 524-5454 (800) 252-8955

For a copy of the publication, *Illinois Recycled Materials Market Directory*, contact the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources. For a copy of the publications, *Recycled Paper Purchase Program* and *Wastepaper Collection Pilot Program*, contact the Illinois Department of Central Management Services.

Recycling in Illinois

What to Recycle/How to Prepare It

Glass

Returnable/Reusable

Beer & Soft Drink Bottles

Rinse, clean & return in original cardboard container.

All other Jars & Bottles

- Clear, green & brown glass

Remove any metal caps or rings & rinse clean.

Do not break.

Paper

Newsprint

Stack neatly & tie in bundles or place in paper bags.

Mixed or Scrap Paper

Box, bag or bundle. No wax or plastic coated paper, or non-paper items.

Cardboard

Break down flat & tie in bundles.

Hi-grade or ledger

Box or bundle. No carbon, staples, or non-paper items.

Metals

Aluminum

Rinse & flatten cans. Bag or box foil, TV trays and pie plates.

Tin Cans

Rinse, remove labels and ends & flatten.

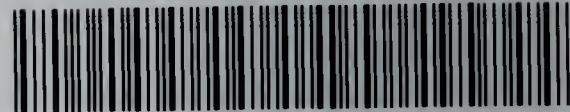
Plastics

Soda & milk bottles

Rinse, remove any metal and flatten.

Motor Oil

Drain carefully & seal container make arrangements for proper recycling or disposal before changing your oil.



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Quick Facts on Recycling

- * Recycling can earn you money.
- * Recycling can reduce your disposal costs.
- * Recycling saves resources.
- * Recycling saves energy.
- * Recycling reduces the size of disposal sites.
- * Recycling reduces litter.
- * Recycling takes little time.
- * You can make 20 recycled aluminum cans with the energy it takes to make one new aluminum can.
- * There are approximately 23 cans to one pound of aluminum.
- * It takes three tons of recycled newspaper to make one ton of paper.
- * Paper made from waste papers instead of virgin wood requires 61 percent less water and results in 70 percent fewer air pollutants.
- * A foot of newspaper tightly twined = 30 pounds.
- * Sixty-seven one-foot bundles of newspaper = one ton.
- * Eleven six-foot stacks of newspaper = one ton.
- * Nature can recycle a tin can to dust in 100 years, and an aluminum can in 500 years, but a glass bottle takes one million years.
- * In April 1988, Gov. James R. Thompson issued an administrative order requiring state agencies to purchase and use recycled paper.

